in Haryana and necessary steps have been initiated in this regard.

"Investment by U.S. Companies in Biotreatment"

2426. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of U.S. companies have shown interest in investing in India in Biotreatment to help India contain the environmental degradation and also to improve agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the names of the U.S. companies in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Three U.S. companies M/s 3—I System Inc., M/s Industrial Ecosystem Inc. and M/s D.D.H Enterprises held seminars early this year in 3 cities for promoting their technology through Indian counterparts. This programme was facilitated through United States Agency for International Development.

Thermal Power Plant at Dahanu

2427. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report appearing in the Economic Times of Sunday, the 5th February, 1995 under the caption 'Fighting the States comes easy for this radical';

(b) what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that the establishment of thermal power plant in Dahanu, north of Bombay, is likely to damage the orchards around the site; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to mitigate the grievances of the farmers in the area, which is known as ecologically fragile no-development zone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government have reported that they are not flouting the Central Government directions issued under the Dahanu Notification.

(c) and (d) While according environmental clearance to this project, Ministry of Environment & Forests had considered all the related issues and stipulated various conditions and environmental safeguards to be implemented effectively by the project authorities. Implementation of the stipulated conditions by BSES is monitored by State Pollution Control Board.

Holding of Forest Land by Private/Public Companies

2428. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Private Limited or Public Limited companies are entitled to hold forest lands in their names;

(b) if so, what are the legal provisions under which they can hold;

(c) what is the extent to which they can hold this land;

(d) whether they can hold agricultural land and if so, to what extent; and

(e) under what provisions a number of teak plantation companies hold agricultural or forest land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e) Private/Public Limited companies are not entitled to hold Government

forest lands in their names. However, for purposes other than non-forest purposes, forest land can be assigned to any authority, corporation, agency or any other organisation wholly owned, managed or controlled by concerned State/Union Territory Government and/or Central Government. For assigning forest land for such purposes by way of lease or otherwise to any person or to any authority, corporation, agency or any other organisation not owned, managed or controlled by Government, prior approval of the Government of India is required as per provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. For diversion of forest land for any non-forest purpose to both Government as well as non-Government agencies, prior approval of the Central Government is required under the same Act. Although, there is no ceiling to the extent of such diversion each case of diversion of forest land is examined carefully after ascertaining non-availability of non forest land and taking into account the likely adverse impact of diversion on the environment including flora and fauna and ensuring that the demand for the forest area is the barest minimum. Each case of diversion of forest land is scrutinized and recommended by the concerned State/Union Territory Government before its submission for approval to the Central Government. While according approval, appropriate safeguards, including carrying out of compensatory afforestation, are stipulated to compensate for the diversion of forest area.

(d) and (e) Limits and conditions of holding of agricultural lands by the companies will vary from State to State and will be governed by the relevant land related Acts and Rules of the concerned State.

गुजरात के उद्योगों को भूमि का आबंटन

2429. **श्रीमती आनन्दीबेन जेठाभाई पटेल:** क्या **पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) ऐसे उद्योगों के नाम क्या-क्या हैं जिन्हें गुजरात के कच्छ के जंगलों में अभयारण्य हेतु सुरक्षित रखी गई जमीन उद्योग लगाने हेतु दे दी गई है;

(ख) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि ऐसे उद्योगों को स्थापित करने से पर्यावरण को नुकसान होगा;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या इस मामले को राज्य सरकार के साथ उठाया गया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उस पर राज्य सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

पर्यावरण और वन [illegible]नय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ): (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Illegal Trade of Animal Skins

2430. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that illegal trade in animals' skins is flourishing in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the laws to curb illegal trade are ineffective and obsolete;

(c) if so, the number of cases of illegal trade in animal skins which came to the notice of Government during the last one year;

(d) the number of persons arrested in this connection and action taken as per law; and

(e) what further amendments Government propose to take to make the law more meaningful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The provisions of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, are effective in